Himalayacetus

Himalayacetus is an extinct genus of <u>carnivorous aquatic mammal</u> of the <u>family Ambulocetidae</u>. The <u>holotype</u> was found in <u>Himachal Pradesh</u>, India, (31.0°N 77.0°E: paleocoordinates 3.5°N 69.7°E)^[2] in what was the remnants of the ancient <u>Tethys Ocean</u> during the <u>Early Eocene</u>. This makes *Himalayacetus* the oldest <u>archaeocete</u> known, extending the fossil record of whales some 3.5 million years.^[3]

Himalayacetus lived in the ancient coastline of the ancient <u>Tethys</u> <u>Ocean</u> before the <u>Indian Plate</u> had collided with the <u>Cimmerian</u> coast. Just like <u>Gandakasia</u>, <u>Himalayacetus</u> is only known from a single jaw fragment, making comparisons to other Ambulocetids difficult.^[4]

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Scientific classification 🥖 Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata Class: Mammalia Order: Artiodactyla Infraorder: Cetacea Family: †Ambulocetidae Genus: †Himalayacetus Bajpai & Gingerich, $1998^{[1]}$ Species: †H. subathuensis **Binomial name** †Himalayacetus subathuensis

Bajpai & Gingerich, 1998^[1]

Himalayacetus

Temporal range: Early Eocene,

53.5 Ma

Pre€ € OS D C P T J K PgN

Description

Upon its discovery, *Himalayacetus* was described as a <u>pakicetid</u> because the dentary has a small <u>mandibular</u> <u>canal</u> and a dentition similar to <u>Pakicetus</u>.^[3] <u>Thewissen, Williams & Hussain 2001</u> assigned *Himalaycetus* to the ambulocetids.

Etymology

Himalayacetus was named by <u>Bajpai & Gingerich 1998</u>. Its type is *Himalayacetus subathuensis* after the Himalayas, *cetus*, "whale", and the Subathu Formation, the type locality.^[5]

Taxonomy

It was considered <u>monophyletic</u> by Uhen (2010). It was assigned to <u>Pakicetidae</u> by Bajpai and Gingerich (1998) and McLeod and Barnes (2008); and to Ambulocetidae by <u>Thewissen</u> et al. (2001) and Uhen (2010). [6]

Notes

- 1. Bajpai & Gingerich 1998.
- 2. *Kuthar Nala (Eocene of India)* (http://paleobiodb.org/cgi-bin/bridge.pl?a=checkTaxonInfo&taxon_no=45584) in the Paleobiology Database. Retrieved June 2013.
- 3. Bajpai & Gingerich 1998, Abstract
- 4. Thewissen, JGM. "Ambulocetidae: The First Costal Whales" (https://archive.is/2013040310361 9/http://www.neomed.edu/DEPTS/ANAT/Thewissen/whale_origins/whales/Ambulocet.html). Archived from the original (http://www.neomed.edu/DEPTS/ANAT/Thewissen/whale_origins/whales/Ambulocet.html) on 2013-04-03. Retrieved February 2013. Check date values in: | accessdate= (help)
- 5. Bajpai & Gingerich 1998, p. 15464
- 6. *Himalayacetus* (http://paleobiodb.org/cgi-bin/bridge.pl?a=checkTaxonInfo&taxon_no=63093) in the Paleobiology Database. Retrieved June 2013.

References

- Bajpai, Sunil; Gingerich, Philip D (December 1998). "A new Eocene archaeocete (Mammalia, Cetacea) from India and the time of origin of whales" (http://repository.ias.ac.in/4723/1/337.pdf) (PDF). PNAS. 95 (26): 15464–68. doi:10.1073/pnas.95.26.15464 (https://doi.org/10.1073%2Fp nas.95.26.15464). OCLC 678707438 (https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/678707438). PMC 28065 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC28065). PMID 9860991 (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/9860991).
- <u>Thewissen</u>, J. G. M.; Williams, E. M.; Hussain, S.T. (2001). "Eocene mammal faunas from northern Indo-Pakistan". *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. **21** (2): 347–66. <u>doi:10.1671/0272-4634(2001)021[0347:EMFFNI]2.0.CO;2</u> (https://doi.org/10.1671%2F0272-4634%282001%290 21%5B0347%3AEMFFNI%5D2.0.CO%3B2). <u>OCLC</u> 631973716 (https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/631973716).

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